

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 OFA-01 OES-05 INT-05 /028 W

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??R 171355Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4060

??INFO AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS NAIROBI 6093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, OTRA, KE

SUBJ: RFA VISIT IN NAIROBI

REF: STATE 166298

1. RFA MET BY PAUL KONGERE, SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICER AT AIRPORT WHO EXPEDITED CUSTOMS FORMALITY. MEET REFLECTS KENYA'S INTEREST IN IOFC MEETING.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS INDICATED GENERAL UNIMPORTANCE OF FISHERIES WITHIN KENYA BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. THIS FEELING, AS SHOWN BELOW, IS WIDESPREAD.

3. RFA MEET MICHAEL J. SAWYER, EXEC. DIR. EAST AFRICAN WILDLIFE SOCIETY (EAWS) WHO INDICATED SOCIETY HAS NO LITERATURE ON FISHERIES, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ACTIVE IN FIELD. AS A CONSERVATION GROUP RFA EXPECTED STRONG OPINIONS ON AT LEAST ON SUBJECT, BUT SOCIETY GENERALLY NOT DISTURBED ABOUT ANY MAJOR ISSUE. SOCIETY HAS (1) TAKEN STEPS TO STOP COLLECTING OF SEA SHELLS, (2) IS TRYING TO PROTECT BECHE DE MER, TURTELS AND SEACOWS, (3) WANTS TO STOP USE OF GAS-POWERED SPEAR GUNS, AND (4) WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FISHING SEASON FOR SPINY LOBSTERS. IN SUMMARY, SOCIETY REMARKABLY UNCONCERNED ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF FISHERIES THUS REFLECTING THE OVERALL LACK OF EVENTS IN KENYAN FISHERIES.

4. RFA MET WITH HILTON HOTEL'S DIV. DIR. OF FOOD AND BERVERAGE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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EAST AFRICA. HILTON MARINE PURCHASES ARE MADE BY AGENTS IN MOMBASA AND DAR ES SALAAM. DIV DIR. DID NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF ANY COMPANIES SUPPLYING THEIR AGENT, HE NOTED ONLY THAT SANITATION WAS A PROBLEM; FISH ARRIVES IN NAIROBI WHOLE (WITH GUTS) IN ICED STATE. CHIEF

CHEF INDICATED QUALITY WAS JUDGED BY SMALL. PURCHASES INCLUDE WHOLE SHRIMP, LOBSTER, CRABS, TUNA, KINGFISH, SOLE AND OCTOPUS. SUPPLY IS ERRATIC. CANNED OYSTERS IN SEA WATER ALSO PURCHASED. FRESH WATER SPECIES, NILE PERCH AND TILAPIA FILLETS, ARE PURCHASED IN NAIROBI FROM VARIOUS DEALERS WHEN AVAILABLE. WHOLE, FROZEN, RAINBOW TROUT SUPPLIED BY A DANISH CULTURIST.

5. DURING CONVERSATION WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRAWN CULTURE OPERATOR IN MOMBASA ENTERED WITH SAMPLE OF FROZEN PRAWN TAILS IN PLASTIC. WOMEN ASKED 46 KENYA SHILLINGS PER KILO (U.S. \$6.57 PER KG. 94 \$2.98 PER LB.) FOR PRODUCT. PRODUCT WOULD BE SOLD IN 3 KG. BAGS IN A 30 KG. MASTER CARTON. WHEN INTRODUCED TO RFA WOMEN REFUSED TO DEVULGE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PRODUCT.

6. RFA MET WIT MISS MOORHANI, BOTANY DEPT., NAIROBI UNIVERSITY, WHO ACTS AS EAWS ADVISOR ON FISHERIES. MOORHANI HAS INFORMATION ON KENYA FISHERIES IN 1950S, BUT NO RECENT LITERATURE. SHE DID NOT, HOWEVER, RECENT M.SC. THESIS BY P.O.J. BWATHONDI, ENTITLED "THE BIOLOGY AND FISHERY POTENTIAL OF PALINURID LOBSTERS IN TANZANIA." THESIS SUBMITTED IN 1973 AT UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM. MAY WISH TO INQUIRE IF COPIES OF THESIS COULD BE OBTAINED.

7. INSUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSERVATION GROUP, COMMERCIAL BUYERS AND DEALERS, AND WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAVE SHOWN A SURPRISING LACK OF LITERATURE, CONCERN OR INTEREST IN THE PRESENT STATE OF KENYAN FISHERIES. THE ABOVE, HOWEVER, IS THE RESULT OF ONLY ONE DAY'S WORK. DISCUSSIONS IN MOMBASA HOPEFULLY WILL PROVE MORE FRUITFUL.

8. REGRET LACK OF MORE NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION. UNLESS NMFS OBJECTS RFA WOULD PREFER, DUE TO VERY HEAVY WORK/TRAVEL SCHEDULE, TO LIMIT COUNTRY BY COUNTRY ALERT REPORTING TO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS ONLY IF TIMELY.
LINDSTROM

UNCLASSIFIED

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LINDSTROM

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